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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM

AMEMBASSY, JIDDA

110

COPY NO

SERIES A

TO

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DECEMBER 10, 1956

REF

MYTELS 278-287 DECEMBER 7, 1956 FROM DHAHRAN

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION NEA	DEPT. RM/R OLI S/S G S/P C O IO EUR A	I N F O
	REC'D 12-22	OTHER	

SUBJECT:

AUDIENCE WITH KING SAUD NOVEMBER 23, 1956, AND ENSUING DISCUSSION WITH PRINCE FAISAL

Supplementing my substantive reports submitted in the ten reference telegrams, I enclose carefully edited memorandum-records of the two conversations on which they were primarily based, namely:

- 1) With H. M. King Saud on December 5, and
- 2) With H.R.H. Prince Faisal on December 6.

These enclosures may be read as sequels to the memorandum-records of my earlier audience with His Majesty on November 23 and conversation with Prince Faisal on November 24 enclosed with my despatch No. 47 of December 5 from Dhahran.

I shall submit a further despatch dealing with the particular subject of King Saud's special request for prompt delivery of ammunition and arms desired to meet Saudi "emergency needs" resulting primarily from sabotage of the El Kharj ammunition factory, as reported in my telegrams Nos. 251 of November 26 and 285 of December 7 from Dhahran (see also enclosure 3 to despatch No. 47 of December 5 from Dhahran).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

George Wadsworth

REVIEWED BY

AMC

DATE

4/15/82

Enclosures:

PORTIONS ENCLOSED AS INDICATED

- 1) Edited Memorandum-Record of Audience with His Majesty King Saud at Riyadh, December 5, 1956
- 2) Edited Memorandum-Record of Audience with H.R.H. Prince Faisal at his Private Diwan in Riyadh, December 6, 1956

GWadsworth:bet
REPORTER

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The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

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From JHMA

EDITED MEMORANDUM-RECORD OF AUDIENCE

WITH HIS MAJESTY KING SAUD AT RIVADH, DECEMBER 5, 1956

PARTICIPANTS: H. M. King Saud

R. R. H. Prince Faisal

Royal Counselor Yusuf Yasin

Ambassador Wadsworth

Rear Admiral J. Monroe, Commander, Middle East Force

Lt. Commander Osterholm, Aide to Admiral Monroe

Interpreter: Embassy Arab Consultant Mohamed Nassoud

Recorder: Vice Consul James Farrell

SUBJECTS:

- 1) Presenting Admiral Monroe, COMDEASTFOR
- 2) Question of Faral and Arabi Islands
- 3) King Sees U. S. Efforts Solving Crisis
- 4) Question of Clearing Suez Canal
- 5) King Urges Prompt Delivery of Arms
- 6) Situation in Syria and Jordan

1) Presenting Admiral Monroe, COMDEASTFOR:

After compliments, Ambassador Wadsworth introduced to King Saud Rear Admiral Jack P. Monroe, Commander, Middle East Force, and the Admiral's aide, Lt. Commander Osterholm. The Admiral expressed his pleasure in meeting His Majesty, whereupon the Ambassador briefly described the broad area over which the Admiral travels in pursuance of his duties. He then continued

AMBASSADOR: The Admiral now has a larger flagship, the USS RAIRIE, in which he hopes to visit the port of Ras Tanura. His officers and men are particularly interested in Saudi Arabia because they know that here they will see the true desert Arab.

AMBASSADOR: While he is paying calls, the Admiral might also visit the islands of Faral and Arabi. Sheikh Yusuf has just been talking with us regarding this problem.

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2) Question of Farsi and Arabi Islands

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BU
EB

AMBASSADOR: I have sensed that it may be difficult for people in Tehran to realize how unacceptable the Iranian action is to Your Majesty's Government.

[REDACTED]

BU
EB

3) King Sees U. S. Efforts Solving Crisis

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BU
EB

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[REDACTED] (b)(1) EB

AMBASSADOR: My government has sought to observe and implement the principles of the UN Charter; and in what we have done we have found great help and comfort in Your Majesty's support and counsel and in your moderating influence and forbearance.

[REDACTED] (b)(1) EB

4. Question of Clearing Suez Canal

AMBASSADOR: In reading yesterday's news I was encouraged by Your Majesty's words with respect to clearing the Suez Canal.

[REDACTED] (b)(1) EB

AMBASSADOR: Would Your Majesty be so good as to tell me any further details Your Majesty may know on this subject of clearing the canal? Its clearance will, of course, be the next step towards resolving the crisis, after the British and French forces have withdrawn.

[REDACTED] (b)(1) EB

AMBASSADOR: We hear from many sources that this withdrawal will require from two to three weeks.

[REDACTED] (b)(1) EB

AMBASSADOR: My Government hopes that clearance of the canal will be undertaken by the UN. Apparently the UN would be in a position to do this by letting contracts for the actual work.

[REDACTED] (b)(1) EB

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THIS DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF

11 PAGES

NO. 5 OF 6 AIRPOUCH

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AMBASSADOR: The resumption of traffic through the Suez Canal is in the interest of all of us. So long as the canal remains closed, the United States will deplete its reserves of oil; in Saudi Arabia, Your Majesty will be deprived of revenue; and in Egypt the Government will lose the canal tolls. When the British and French forces have departed, it will serve our interests to begin clearing the canal at once.

SEAIKH YUSUF: The Ambassador and the Admiral will be His Majesty's guests at dinner. I believe the Admiral might now enjoy having a tour of Riyadh before sunset.

ADMIRAL MONROE: Thank you. I would like that very much.

HIS MAJESTY: (to Admiral Monroe): I will see you at dinner.

(NOTE: Admiral Monroe and Lt. Commander Osterholm depart.)

5) King Urges Prompt Delivery of Arms

AMBASSADOR: I have studied a copy of the list, Your Majesty; and today I received from Yusuf a formal Foreign Office note in the matter.

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From JIDDA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AMBASSADOR: I am glad to hear that the new High Council is to be under Your Majesty's direct control in the Diwan. I shall report this to my Government as an organizational development which should breathe new vitality into the Army and as added reason again to urge favorable action on the arms order as promptly as possible.

Such a recommendation was implied in a telegram I sent to Washington reporting my discussions during my last visit in Riyadh. It urged prompt consideration of Saudi Arabia's needs, not only for the pending \$35 million order but also, in principle, for additional emergency requirements; and I am hopeful that a message on this subject will be brought to Your Majesty in the very near future from the highest level.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From JIDDA

[REDACTED] BU
[REDACTED] EB

AMBASSADOR: I believe there is hope that Your Majesty's request will be granted. I have heard of Khayyal's visit to Mr. Murphy on December 3. Later I would like to discuss with Yusuf certain of the details.

6) Situation in Syria

My Government has informed me that it appreciates Your Majesty's assurances, received through Khayyal, regarding Syria. Our policy is to oppose strongly a further outbreak of hostilities anywhere in this area. I trust that Khayyal emphasized that in his answer.

[REDACTED] BU
[REDACTED] EB

AMBASSADOR: My Government is still worried, however.

[REDACTED] BU
[REDACTED] EB

[REDACTED] BU
[REDACTED] EB

[REDACTED] BU
[REDACTED] EB

AMBASSADOR: I am grateful for the information Your Majesty has given me regarding the several questions in which I am deeply interested.

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From JIDDA

[REDACTED] BU
EB

AMBASSADOR: Of course, Your Majesty. It has been a particular honor and pleasure to have been received by Your Majesty and Prince Faisal three times during the month I have been absent from Jidda.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BU
EB

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(NOTE: Here the audience ended, a few moments before the muezzin gave the call to evening prayer.)

* * * * *

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From JEDDA

EDITED MEMORANDUM-RECORD OF AUDIENCE

WITH H.R.H. PRINCE FAISAL AT HIS PRIVATE DIWAN IN RIYADH

December 6, 1956 (4:30-5:00 p.m.)

PARTICIPANTS: H.R.H. Prince Faisal, Crown Prince, Premier and Foreign Minister
Ambassador Hadsworth
Yusuf Yasin, Royal Counselor and Deputy Foreign Minister

Interpreter: Mohamed Massoud, Embassy Arab Consultant

Recorders: Vice Consul Farrell and Mamduh Effendi

SUBJECTS:

- 1) Forthcoming Visit of General Tunner
- 2) Statement re U. S. Assistance in Suez Crisis
- 3) ERH's Views on Combatting Communist Influence
- 4) ERH's Views on Palestine Problem
- 5) Clearance of Suez Canal

1) Forthcoming Visit of General Tunner

After compliments, the Ambassador discussed with Prince Faisal and Shaikh Yusuf the forthcoming visit of Lt. General Tunner, CINCSAFE. Prince Faisal pointed out that His Majesty would still be hunting in the western desert at the proposed time (December 13) of General Tunner's arrival, and suggested that the General could meet His Majesty at his hunting camp. The Ambassador then turned the conversation to the draft statement shown him by Shaikh Yusuf during their conversation earlier in the day.

2) Statement re U. S. Assistance in Suez Crisis

AMBASSADOR: Has Shaikh Yusuf explained to Your Highness our conversation of this morning, particularly our remarks concerning the draft statement for publication?

YUSUF: I have given the new draft to Majid for translation.

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[REDACTED]

(Discussion of the draft statement was suspended pending Majid's return.)

3) HRE's Views on Combatting Communist Influence

AMBASSADOR: Since my last visit to Riyadh, I have re-read several times Your Highness' very interesting remarks concerning the best means of opposing communist influence and infiltration in this area. I have sent the full text of our conversation to my Government. Your Highness has been given an Arabic translation of the text. Did it faithfully represent Your Highness' views?

[REDACTED]

AMBASSADOR: I found that Your Highness' thoughts formed a very coherent whole. I believe my Government will benefit from your words, for they are particularly timely in view of the situation in Jordan.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From JEDDA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AMBASSADOR: Yes, if raising the basic question would only inspire collateral questions, it would be better not to raise it at all.

I would like to speak for a moment of the refugee problem. The resolutions of 1947-48 did not envisage an independent Israel in the sense that it exists today. They envisaged, rather, a Palestine divided into Arab and Jewish areas, each of which would be autonomous yet linked through economic interests. That is a very different house from what we had before or what we have today; and it is into some modified reconstruction of that house that the 1,000,000 Arab refugees must be fitted.

[REDACTED]

AMBASSADOR: Permit me to discuss for a moment the matter of recognition, Your Highness. My Government, as I understand its position, views recognition as a right of sovereignty, to be granted or withheld as the acting nation sees fit. I suppose that of the 70-odd nations in the UN, more than 50 have granted recognition to Israel. There is no suggestion on our part that you should waive your sovereign right to recognize or to not recognize Israel, the Israel that exists today, unless and until you find a basis for peace with the Jews.

To that end, our problem, I suppose, is to restore the situation to some semblance of what it was before; and, as I see it, the only practicable way is through the UN.

[REDACTED]

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AMBASSADOR: This, i.e. perhaps a month from now, may be the best time to persuade the UN to act. Of course there are other people who hold different views on this question.

[REDACTED] b6
[REDACTED] b7C

AMBASSADOR: Other nations would make other proposals, and that would lead to considerable discussion.

[REDACTED] b6
[REDACTED] b7C

AMBASSADOR: There is much to be said for Your Highness' view; but do you agree that, as Israel is now in disfavor with the UN, there could hardly be a better moment to go before the UN to rectify past favoritism shown it. My question is, therefore: Should not the Arabs welcome this moment, their best opportunity in the past five years?

[REDACTED] b6
[REDACTED] b7C

AMBASSADOR: It seems to me that whenever we talk, we decide that the best thing to do is to do nothing, and pray.

[REDACTED] b6
[REDACTED] b7C

AMBASSADOR: I would not have raised this question myself.

[REDACTED] b6
[REDACTED] b7C

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From JIDDA

2) Statement re U. S. Assistance in Suez Crisis (Continued)

(NOTE: At this point Shaikh Yusuf read Mejid's translation of the draft statement to Prince Faisal.)

[REDACTED]

b7D
ED

NOTE: Shaikh Yusuf read certain further suggested changes in the draft, which the Ambassador then incorporated in his copy of the English text. And Prince Faisal explained that the phrase "wise and moderating influence" should be altered because, in Arabic, its connotation suggests that His Majesty lacked enthusiasm. As a substitute the Ambassador suggested "his constant efforts to attain these same ends." This accepted, the Ambassador obtained Prince Faisal's approval to his telegraphing the draft to Washington. His Government's approval, the Ambassador said, should be obtained to the phraseology of his words if they were to be published.

5) Clearance of Suez Canal

AMBASSADOR: The most constructive new idea I heard this morning lay in Shaikh Yusuf's acknowledgement that, although the actual work of clearing the Suez Canal should not begin until after the British and French forces have withdrawn, it would be reasonable to allow the Dutch and Danish experts to visit the canal in order to assess the problem.

YUSUF: They will do so.

[REDACTED]

irrelevant

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

irrelevant

AMBASSADOR: I have heard that they will require two or three weeks.
That is probably about as fast as we can expect them to move.

Is there anything I may do for Your Highness?

FAISAL: No thank you, Your Excellency.

(NOTE: Here the audience ended a few minutes before the muezzin called
for sunset prayer.)

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